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International development cooperation

Sweden has a long tradition of generous and ambitious development aid. Development cooperation is about helping to enable poor people to improve their living conditions. Swedish development aid is often channelled through international organisations such as the UN and the EU. Humanitarian assistance refers to Sweden's activities to save lives, alleviate suffering and maintain the human dignity of those affected by natural disasters, armed conflicts or other similar circumstances.

About international development cooperation

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News about international development cooperation

Development assistance for a new era – freedom, empowerment and sustainable growth

The reform agenda, 'Development assistance for a new era – freedom, empowerment and sustainable growth', was adopted on 14 December 2023.

- [Development assistance for a new era – freedom, empowerment and sustainable growth](#)
- [Article: Minister for International Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade on Government's direction for Swedish development assistance](#)

The Global Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Illustration: The UN

The Global Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development seek to end poverty and hunger, realise the human rights of all, achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources.

- [The Global Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)

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[Government phasing out bilateral development aid with Iraq](#)

The Government has decided to begin a phase-out of Sweden's strategy for development cooperation with Iraq. This phase-out will be done responsibly, and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) have been tasked with concluding operations by 30 June 2025.

Published 18 July 2024 · [Press release](#) from [Johan Forssell](#)

[Government increases support to vulnerable and persecuted journalists](#)

The Government has decided to support the Reporters Shield initiative with SEK 5 million over a two-year period. Reporters Shield is a new long-term support programme that provides legal support to journalists and other media actors operating in repressive environments when they are targeted by baseless lawsuits.

Published 16 July 2024 · [Press release](#) from [Johan Forssell](#), [Ministry for Foreign Affairs](#)

[Swedish Government supports affected families following missile attack on Kyiv children's hospital](#)

Through the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) humanitarian fund, to which Sweden is a major donor, it was possible to provide immediate assistance to people affected by the missile attack on the children's hospital in Ohmatdyt on 8 July. The Government is now preparing a decision to provide an additional SEK 5 million in urgent humanitarian assistance to the ongoing response. This support will be channelled through UNICEF and go directly to the affected children and their families.

Published 16 July 2024 · [Press release](#) from [Johan Forssell](#), [Ministry for Foreign Affairs](#)

[Karin Tegmark Wisell appointed as Sweden's Ambassador for Global Health](#)

The Government's new reform agenda, 'Development assistance for a new era – freedom, empowerment and sustainable growth', has a particular focus on improved health for the most vulnerable people. Initiatives are needed to improve prospects of good health, ensure functioning health and medical care systems, and strengthen preparedness, in order to better address health threats at global level. Sweden has an important role to play in these efforts.

Published 09 July 2024 · [Press release](#) from [Jakob Forssmed](#), [Johan Forssell](#), [Ministry for Foreign Affairs](#), [Ministry of Health and Social Affairs](#)

[The Government pays out SEK 100 million to UNRWA](#)

The Government is paying out SEK 100 million in core support to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The disbursement is being made in response to the urgent humanitarian situation in Gaza and in light of the new measures UNRWA has taken to strengthen internal supervision and control.

Published 28 June 2024 · [Press release](#) from [Johan Forssell](#), [Ministry for Foreign Affairs](#)

[Johan Forssell visited Kyiv with a large business delegation](#)

The first-ever Swedish minister-led business delegation visited Ukraine this week. The delegation was headed by Minister for International Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade Johan Forssell. In Kyiv, the delegation met with President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy and held roundtable discussions with a tailored line-up of Ukrainian ministers, including Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal. The new Swedish trade office was also inaugurated.

Published 26 June 2024 · [Press release](#) from [Johan Forssell](#), [Ministry for Foreign Affairs](#)

[Swedish Embassies in Bamako and Ouagadougou to close; plans to establish new Embassy in Dakar](#)

The Government has decided to close Sweden's Embassies in Bamako (Mali) and Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso). To continue pursuing effective engagement in the Sahel and West Africa, the Government has also decided to initiate a process to establish a new Embassy in Dakar (Senegal).

Published 24 June 2024 · [Press release](#) from [Ministry for Foreign Affairs](#)

[Sweden's regional strategy for the Syria crisis 2024–2026](#)

This regional strategy for the Syria crisis forms part of Sweden's overall development and foreign policy and will help to strengthen local resilience among the Syrian population, Syrian refugees and vulnerable groups in the refugee-hosting communities of neighbouring countries Jordan, Lebanon and Türkiye, all of which are major regional recipients of Syrian refugees.

Published 20 June 2024 · [International development cooperation strategies](#) from [Ministry for Foreign Affairs](#)

[Johan Forssell in Berlin: Ukraine support increasing](#)

This year's Ukraine Recovery Conference (URC2024) is being held against the backdrop of further intensified Russian attacks against the people of Ukraine and its infrastructure.

Published 12 June 2024 · [Press release](#) from [Johan Forssell](#), [Ministry for Foreign Affairs](#)

[Multi-agency Donor Coordination Platform: Joint Ministerial Communiqué](#)

June 11, 2024

Published 11 June 2024 · [Statement](#) from [Ministry for Foreign Affairs](#)

[Johan Forssell takes part in Ukraine Recovery Conference in Berlin](#)

On 10–11 June, Minister for International Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade Johan Forssell will travel to Berlin to take part in the annual Ukraine Recovery Conference together with Business Sweden's CEO Jan Larsson and Director-General of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) Jakob Granit. This year's conference will focus in particular on the important role of the private sector in reconstruction, the importance of international cooperation and the human dimension. During his visit to Berlin, Mr Forssell will also meet with the German Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Svenja Schulze. He will also visit the German Vattenfall office.

Published 10 June 2024 · [Press release](#) from [Johan Forssell](#), [Ministry for Foreign Affairs](#)

[Strategy for international civilian crisis management and peace promotion 2024–2028](#)

Sweden's strategy for civilian crisis management and peace promotion is a part of the governance of Sweden's collective development, foreign and security policy. The strategy will contribute to strengthening the multilateral organisations' capability to prevent, predict, manage and resolve crises and conflicts and help promote sustainable peace, security, democracy and increased respect for human rights and freedoms and the rule of law.

Published 07 June 2024 · [International development cooperation strategies](#) from [Ministry for Foreign Affairs](#)

[Government adopts new regional strategy for Syria crisis](#)

The Government has adopted a new regional strategy for the Syria crisis. It comprises SEK 880 million over three years and is being implemented by Sida. Sweden's engagement is aimed at supporting the Syrian population in Syria, Syrian refugees and vulnerable groups in host societies in the neighbouring countries Jordan, Lebanon and Türkiye.

Published 07 June 2024 · [Press release](#) from [Johan Forssell](#), [Ministry for Foreign Affairs](#)

[Speech by Johan Forssell on Africa Day](#)

Speech by Minister for International Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade Johan Forssell on the occasion of Africa Day. Egyptian Embassy, Stockholm, 28 May. Check against delivery.

Published 31 May 2024 · [Speech](#) from [Johan Forssell](#), [Ministry for Foreign Affairs](#)

[Qatar's Minister of State for International Cooperation visited Sweden](#)

On 23–24 May, Qatar's Minister of State for International Cooperation Lolwah bint Rashid Al-Khater visited Stockholm at the invitation of State Secretary Diana Janse. The visit also included meetings with Minister for Foreign Affairs Tobias Billström and Minister for International Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade Johan Forssell. The purpose of the visit was to discuss cooperation on development assistance, Ukraine's reconstruction and the war in Gaza.

Published 28 May 2024 · [Article](#) from [Johan Forssell](#), [Tobias Billström](#), [Ministry for Foreign Affairs](#)

[New energy package to strengthen Ukraine's resilience](#)

Today, the Government is presenting a new energy package to Ukraine in the amount of SEK 650 million. This support will help secure Ukraine's energy supply to ensure that fundamental public services, such as schools, hospitals, transport, water supply and businesses, can continue to run.

Published 28 May 2024 · [Press release](#) from [Johan Forssell](#), [Ministry for Foreign Affairs](#)

[Government presents support package for children in Ukraine and Moldova](#)

The Government and the Sweden Democrats have decided on SEK 105 million in support to strengthen children's rights and protection in Ukraine and Moldova. In addition, Sweden has decided to donate SEK 30 million through Sida to Save the Children's operations in Ukraine. This support will help strengthen children's welfare and access to safe healthcare in an extremely serious humanitarian situation.

Published 22 May 2024 · [Press release](#)

[Government increases humanitarian support to Gaza](#)

In view of the extensive humanitarian needs in Gaza, the Government has presented a new humanitarian aid package amounting to EUR 10.5 million. The support will be distributed to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Food Programme (WFP).

Published 17 May 2024 · [Press release](#) from [Johan Forssell](#), [Ministry for Foreign Affairs](#)

[Focus on SRHR and trade relations as Johan Forssell visits Zambia](#)

Minister for International Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade Johan Forssell is visiting Zambia on 14–16 May. Mr Forssell is announcing Sweden's new strategy for development cooperation, which places a stronger emphasis on women's and girls' access to antenatal care and safe abortions.

Published 14 May 2024 · [Press release](#) from [Johan Forssell](#), [Ministry for Foreign Affairs](#)

[Donors address humanitarian crisis facing the Yemeni people](#)

The humanitarian situation is deteriorating in Yemen amidst escalating regional dynamics. Senior representatives from across the humanitarian community gathered in Brussels today at the sixth Yemen Humanitarian Senior Officials Meeting (SOM VI), co-hosted by Sweden and the European Commission, to address the most immediate emergencies and to ensure a timely lifesaving response.

Published 07 May 2024 · [Press release](#) from [Johan Forssell](#), [Ministry for Foreign Affairs](#)

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